

~~Top Secret~~



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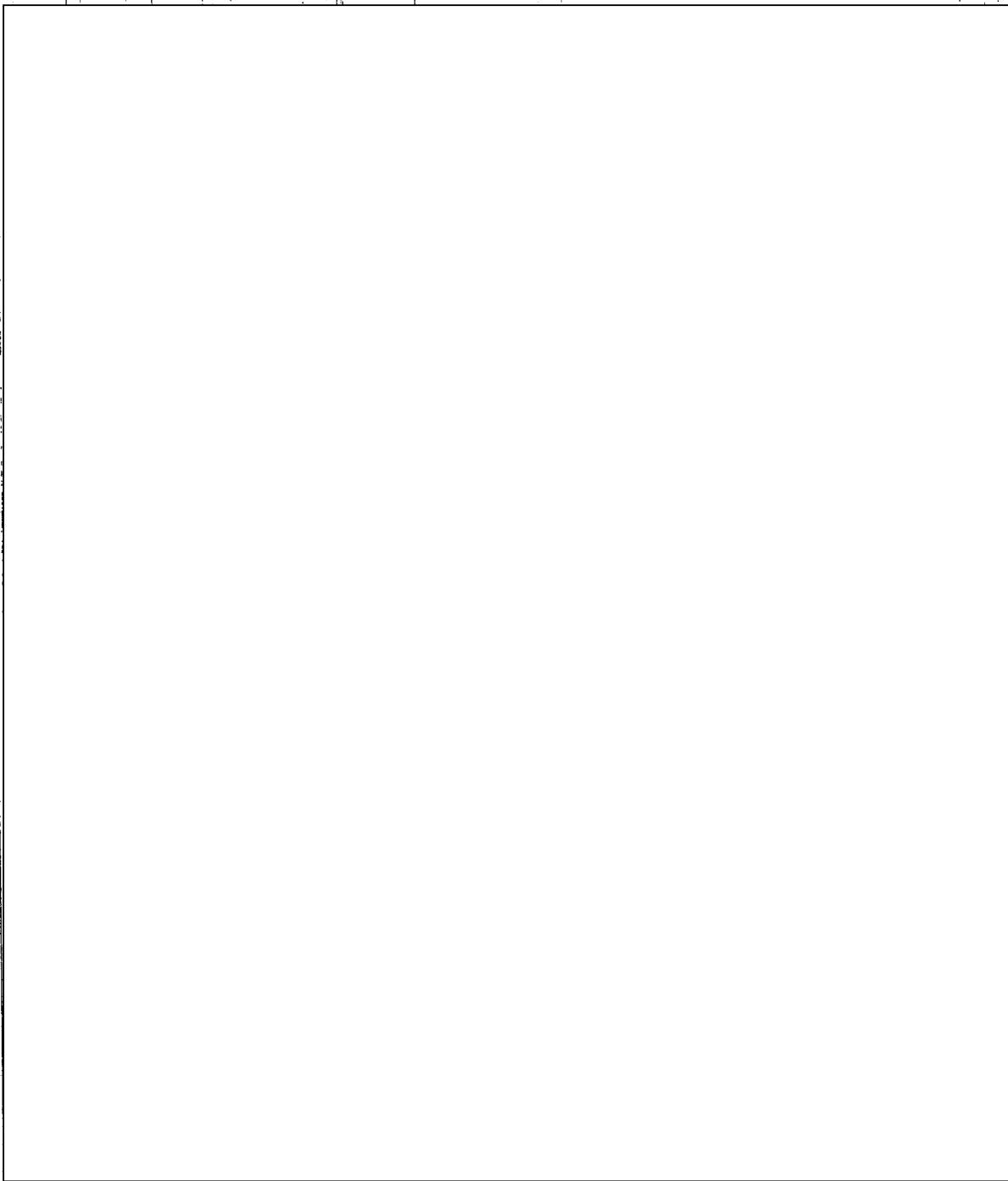
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# National Intelligence Bulletin

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## CONTENTS

[redacted]

PORTUGUESE TIMOR: Lisbon's slow  
action on Timor annoys Indonesia . . . . . 2

[redacted]

[redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

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### PORTUGUESE TIMOR

[redacted]  
Despite strong pressure from his military commanders, [redacted] Suharto apparently plans to follow the diplomatic option to the end before authorizing unilateral military action.

Portuguese special envoy Almeida Santos is still trying to piece together a multinational peace-keeping effort for Timor. Thus far, only Malaysia and Indonesia have responded positively, while Australia remains noncommittal. Santos is also trying to arrange talks between the feuding Timorese factions.

Leaders of the radical Fretilin party, which now controls Dili and much of the interior, have publicly agreed to meet Santos, who is now on Atauro Island, the headquarters for the Portuguese governor of Timor. Fretilin may demand that Lisbon recognize its de facto control of Portuguese Timor and publicly designate its representatives the leaders of a new Timorese government.

The Democratic Union party, which staged the coup on August 9 but subsequently lost control to the radicals, has not yet responded to Santos' invitation. The pro-Indonesian Apodeti party, the smallest and least effective political faction, apparently was not invited. Indonesian officials have publicly objected to any talks on Timor's future that do not include all three parties.

A major Portuguese concern in resolving the Timor problem is the safety of several dozen Portuguese citizens, mostly soldiers, still in Timor. Once their safety is assured, Santos may feel he has a freer hand to negotiate a settlement. Fretilin has promised to release some 30 Portuguese soldiers on September 11, and five others have escaped to Indonesian Timor. Several other Portuguese nationals apparently are unaccounted for.

[redacted]  
Military preparations for an Indonesian invasion are virtually complete. Suharto has apparently assured his military advisers that he will authorize unilateral action if and when he feels it necessary to protect Indonesian interests. At present, Indonesian forces are patrolling Timor's land and sea borders, in part to quarantine the island from outside interference.

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